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CHINA,

ITS

COSTUME, ARTS,

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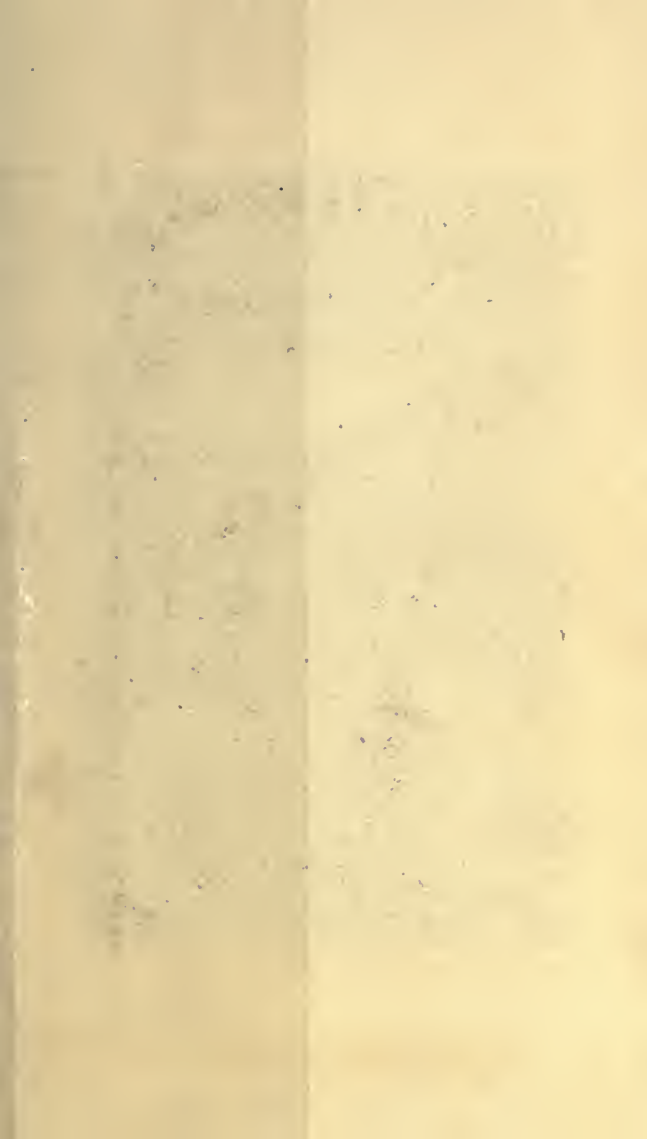
VOL. I.

THE

OF

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A Cardon direct

FEAST OF AGRICULTURE.

CHINA:

ITS

Costume,

ARTS, MANUFACTURES,

&c.

EDITED PRINCIPALLY FROM THE ORIGINALS IN
THE CABINET OF THE LATE

M. BERTIN;

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

EXPLANATORY, HISTORICAL, AND LITERARY,

By M. BRETON.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

EMBELLISHED WITH PLATES.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. J. STOCKDALE,
41, PALL MALL.

1812.

CHINA

Column

BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL

TO THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
AND THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

IN THE
OFFICE OF THE
CONSUL GENERAL
AT SHANGHAI
CHINA

FOR THE YEAR 1890

AND
FOR THE YEAR 1891

1892

1893

1894

1895

1896

1897

1898

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TO THE

DEPUTATIONS

From the various Outports, and mercantile and
manufacturing Towns

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM,

Assembled in London, to oppose the Renewal

OF THE,

EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S

Commercial Monopoly,

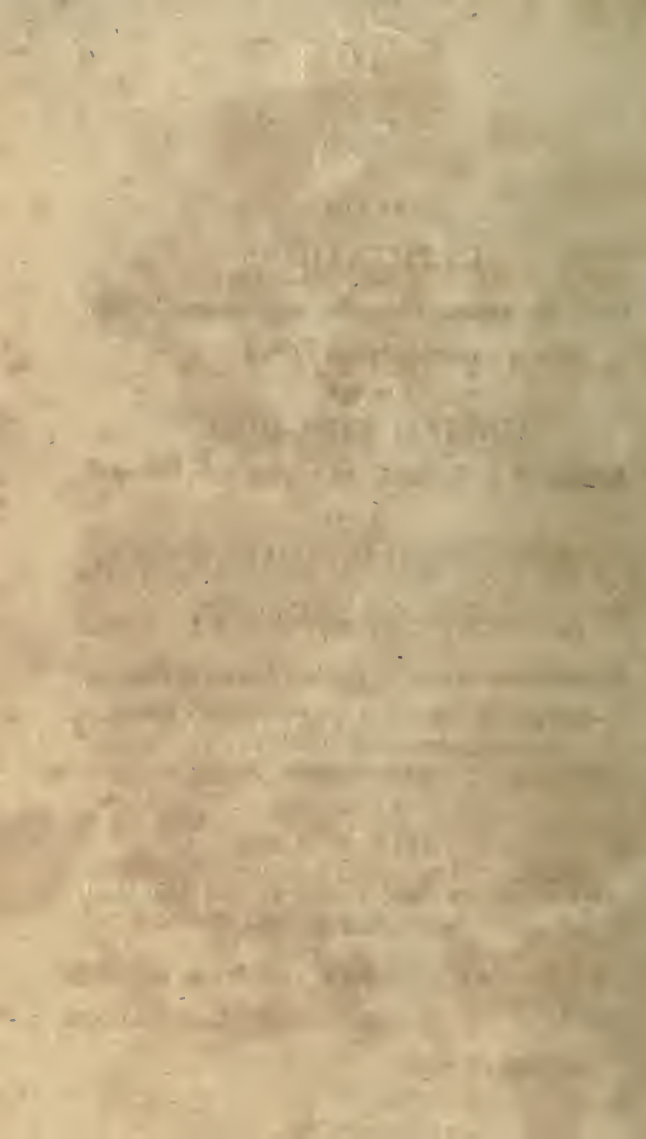
With the warmest wishes for their success in effecting
an object so essential to the commercial, manu-
facturing, and trading Interests of the
British Empire,

THIS WORK,

As a tribute to their collective, and individual,
meritorious exertions,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

303659



THE TRANSLATOR'S ADVERTISEMENT.

THE only remark with which the Translator feels it necessary to detain the Reader, is to state, that he has occasionally introduced, though very sparingly, such variations as he conceived would tend at the same time to elucidate the subject under consideration, and as would more immediately adapt the whole, notwithstanding it is a translation, to the hand of an English Reader.

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PREFACE.

OF the numerous works which have appeared on the Empire of China, few have entered into the necessary details respecting its arts and manufactures. The ancient missionaries, and the English writers who published accounts of Lord Macartney's celebrated embassy, have bestowed their attention on little more than the principal objects of manufacture and commerce—such as china, tea, printing, breeding silk-worms, &c.; and these authors are, for the most part, repetitions of each other. The English travellers have obtained scarcely any new information:

they have done little more than made extracts from Duhalde's great work.

M. Bertin, minister and secretary of state during the two preceding reigns, in whose department the foreign missions were, was sensible how useful a more perfect knowledge of China might prove to the arts, sciences, and manufactures: not satisfied with fulfilling the duty of his office, by protecting to the utmost the missionaries at Peking, and transmitting to them the supplies authorized by government, he contributed liberally towards rendering their situations comfortable. He spared no expense to procure rarities from China, and neglected no opportunity of acquiring detailed accounts of the objects or drawings which were transmitted to him.

This valuable statesman did not wish to seclude, in his private museum, all these important documents; his warmest desire was to communicate them to the world.

M. Bertin was well aware, that the missionaries, who were so estimable from their religious zeal, and so competent to elaborate history, philology, and mathematics, which were within their own sphere, did not possess the same advantages in diving into the secrets of arts and manufactures. In fact, the collections which the missionaries made were often defective and incomplete in many points of importance, owing either to their own ignorance, or to the disinclination of those to whom they were forced to apply. Besides, the Chinese manufacturers, equally jealous with our own, of the secrets of their respective professions, would not lightly

disclose them to foreigners. How then were they to surmount such obstacles? A favourable opportunity presented itself. —Two young active and intelligent Chinese, named Ko and Yang, both natives of Pekin, having become converts to the Christian religion, and being instructed by the Jesuits in the Latin and French languages, consented to go to France, at the missionaries' expense, that they might see (to use their own words) the splendour of Christianity in Europe. The first was nineteen, the other eighteen years of age.

They arrived at Paris in 1760, and entered the Jesuits' convent as novices.

“We were living,” say they in their memoir, “in peace, and void of care, unknown

to all France, when the dissolution of the society of the Jesuits took place." The Count St. Florentine, touched with the lamentable situation in which they were involved by this event, obtained a pension for them of 750 livres.

Desirous of returning to China, they were obliged to make interest with M. Bertin, who then superintended the India Company's affairs. He eagerly laid hold of the opportunity to carry into effect the object he had in view. He prevailed on the Chinese to put off their voyage for a year; during which interval they went through a course of natural philosophy and chemistry, at the government expense, under M. Brisson, academician, who died, a few years since, member of the Institute. They were also taught drawing and

stroke engraving; in the latter of which they left specimens of their abilities behind them.

By the order, and at the expense of His Majesty, they made a journey to Lyons, Forez, and Vivarais, that they might acquire a knowledge of the French manufactures, and be more competent to communicate information on those of China.

It was evidently M. Bertin's object to procure, in China, in some respect, at his own disposal, two natives, who, having a knowledge of the language and arts of France, were still free from the prejudices of their own nation. It would be difficult to meet with two men better qualified to carry his intentions into effect than were the Chinese Ko and Yang.

They reached their own country in safety, and, concealing themselves at Macao in a corner of the vessel while it was searched, landed at night by moonlight, resumed the Chinese dress, and went to Peking, as though they had never been out of it.

Ko and Yang did not lose a moment to evince their gratitude to M. Bertin; but immediately set about returning it by furnishing, conjointly with the missionaries at Peking, the greater part of the materials from which the "Memoirs respecting the Chinese" were drawn. Amiot and Cibot were the principal editors. The first volume of that collection, unfortunately broken off at book 15, contains a learned dissertation on the origin of the Chinese, their lan-

guage, history, &c. It is by Father Cibot, under the name of Ko.

Their intention was no other than to revise or re-write all which had been published respecting China. M. Yang, in a letter to M. Bertin, dated October 10, 1772, thus expresses himself:

“ I hope, in time, to transmit many other memoirs, which will give a clear and particular insight into every thing relative to China. Hitherto France, and even Europe, knows it only as through a thick veil, which permits the objects to be seen confusedly, and leaves much to supposition; but as Your Excellency, always occupied in enriching the state with the most valuable knowledge, has incited our missionaries, they press forward to second your intentions. It will shortly be seen

that the best selected works on China are, at least in part, mere dreams and reveries. Even in Father Duhalde, whom I consider as the best, how much is there to rescind of what he has gone too far in advancing, and to perfect what he has merely touched upon ! It were greatly to be wished, that, among the missionaries, were some lovers of truth who would undertake to correct that author's work. I say lovers of truth, because it is a prevailing fault to exalt too high what there is a disposition to praise, and to depress too low what they wish to censure."

This letter, the original of which is now in my hands, on bamboo paper, is tolerably well written, and with great judgment; as is all the correspondence of the two Chinese.

In another epistle, in which Yang gives his protector a description, agreeably to his desire, of the Yu-Lan, a celebrated shrub of China, he says, "I beg Your Excellency to do me the favour to accept the description of a flower called Yu-Lan, which we have named Bertin, to eternize our gratitude."

I saw with pleasure, on this letter, a remark, in the minister's own hand, as follows—"What does he mean by his Bertin flower? Was it not known, and had it not a name before—Yu-Lan?"

A succession of unfortunate events forced the relinquishment of this collection, which might have been so valuable to our literati and artists. At first, lamentable dissensions arose among the missionaries at Peking. The death of

Father Cibot, which took place on the 8th of August 1780, was a signal for the most deplorable disasters.

I have now before me Father Cibot's letter, written in a strange hand, but signed by him; dated 3d of August, five days before his death.

“ My last hour draws nigh. My ideas rest solely on our dear mission. I again commend it to Your Excellency; never was your countenance more necessary. You have done so much for it already—Perfect, Sir, perfect, I conjure you, the good work. Time is short; if your zeal does not come speedily to the assistance of the French missionaries, they will fall, and their religion with them.”

On returning from his funeral, Father Sallusti, an Italian missionary, excommunicated two of his brethren, and four Chinese neophytes. On another side, the French revolution placed the missionaries at Peking in a still more cruel situation; they were deprived of assistance, and had no correspondence with the mother-country.

Meantime, M. Bertin was especially careful in his cabinet, not only of the materials which had in part supplied the *Memoirs concerning the Chinese*; but of many others which had not hitherto been brought into use*. The most interesting

* Of the *Narration of the Voyage of the two Chinese*, only twenty copies were printed. Considerations of the greatest interest prevented its having more publicity; the work might find its way to China, and the narrators' destruction be the consequence.

was an immense collection of about 400 original drawings, made at Peking, of the arts and manufactures of China, and many other paintings.

Accident threw into my hands nearly the whole of this collection: together with the correspondence of the missionaries, and that of Ko, Yang, &c.

Many of these subjects were new and hitherto unknown in France; particularly the manner of gathering the leaves of tea by means of monkeys; varnish-making; costume of a Mahometan woman; the serpent-seller; money-changer; distiller; brazier; whip and kite sellers; the interior of a Chinese apartment; sweet-meat—hare seller; some representations of punishments, &c.

These drawings were unfortunately either not described at all, or very briefly described. I have, however, succeeded in adding a text, which will, I flatter myself, prove not devoid of interest; and selected such of the drawings as would be most acceptable to the public; for many of the subjects are not sufficiently interesting, their costume differing very little from that of our European artisans.

On the other hand, it was requisite to publish a complete work on China; a kind of compendium of whatever it affords, of the curious, rare, and useful.

I have consulted, for my explanatory notices, all the narratives ancient and modern; I have collected every docu-

ment within my reach, and laid the whole under contribution, from the *China Illustrata* of Father Kircher, in which is the oldest description of the *Hortensia*, to the *Fragment*s of the Voyage of Iwan Iwanow Tschudrin, published in 1809, by the celebrated Kotzebue.

It has been my endeavour to relate facts simply and reasonably, without partaking the enthusiasm, oftentimes extravagant, of certain missionaries; and without giving myself up to that spirit of censure and aspersion which has still more frequently directed the pen of the English traveller, Barrow; than whom, however, few authors have written on the manners of the Chinese more ingeniously, or have displayed greater sagacity and erudition; particularly when he com-

pare their customs with those of the ancients*.

One of my most ardent wishes has been to share with my readers the respect which I have always felt for missionaries. Their utility, however, is not likely to become a subject of dispute; for the English are busily engaged in sending missions into Africa, America, and the Indies.

* Barrow's Voyage to China has been a subject of very severe animadversion with the Abbé Grosier, in the *Journal de l'Empire*. I must frankly confess, that one of the most serious charges against him is to be attributed to an error of his printer, and perhaps thence transferred to his translators.—Mr. Barrow has been accused, and with reason, of having libelled the government of China, by saying that it encouraged infanticide: but it is not with the same justice that he has been considered culpable in regard to the missionaries, of a calumny which would be really atrocious; I refer, for this essential explanation, to the text of Plate LVI. at the beginning of Vol. IV.

In this quarter, at least, we have nothing to fear from their rivalry. The English missionaries, being of the Lutheran persuasion, will make less progress in the minds of the people, than Romish missionaries. I do not speak of exterior forms, nor of dogmas; but of the domestic life, manners, and characters of the ministers of either religion. The celibacy of our priests was, indeed, for some time, an obstacle to their obtaining very great favour with the Chinese, who at first regarded, with a suspicion almost bordering on disgust, men who seemed to have abandoned father and mother. It was thought still more strange, that, devoted to a life of strict celibacy, they renounced having children, who might honour their names in the hall of their ancestors; but in the sequel, the very prejudices of the people converted these

unfavourable privations to subjects of admiration. That religion was looked upon sublime which could so detach from the affairs of this world, as to renounce the enjoyment of so comfortable a pleasure as that of living again in posterity.

The Protestant missionaries will, undoubtedly, not take European women with them; but then they will marry in the country; they will give their wives a taste for the manners of Europe, and this innovation will be considered an offence.

The Dutch received at Japan, to the exclusion of every other European nation*, have never yet recovered, even the most trivial portion of the ascendancy

* Sketches Civil and Military of the Islands of Java, &c. second Edit. p. 266.

which the Portuguese, by the aid of the Jesuits, had obtained there. Besides, the English could not sufficiently conceal in China, the interest of commerce under that of religion. Their missionaries, regarded as mere agents of the India Company, would be subject to merciless extortion and continual insults.

As plates of costumes can scarcely have proper effect without being coloured, the whole of this collection has been engraved in such a manner as to be suitable for colouring.

My readers must be convinced that this work has not been accomplished by a traveller who has seen with his own eyes, the subjects which he describes. It has, however, been my aim, to combine the useful with the agreeable; by a re-

ference to the most authentic sources, I have compared, or endeavoured to reconcile, accounts which, in many instances, were very dissimilar. It, however, is at last a mere compilation; but I have, in no case, been a servile copyist, nor have I withheld my own opinions, where I conceived they could be given with propriety.

CHINA,

ITS COSTUME, ARTS, !

&c.

*Sketch of the Empire—Its Productions—
The Religions which prevail or are
tolerated.*

CHINA is more favourably situated than any country in the world: one part of its immense territory is sheltered from the north winds by the elevated regions of middle Asia; and the other is bounded by the great Eastern Ocean, the continual evaporations of which shed over it, at all times, a humid, but mild atmosphere strongly impregnated with nitre. To these circumstances it is indebted for the most favoured climate, and the best watered soil of the whole globe.

Many chains of moderately high mountains intersect this vast region; where two magnificent rivers have their sources, increased by above twenty others, as large, as the finest rivers in Europe. Lakes and canals without number, further add to the fertility of a soil cultivated almost in every point.

All the gifts of nature, and every product of human industry, are found concentrated there. An immense population fills the cities and country, and may be said to swarm even the very rivers, where whole families are born, live, and die in boats, without scarcely ever setting a foot on shore.

Cultivation enjoys in this fruitful soil, whatever can add to fertility. The mountains are cultivated from their bases to their summits by means of terraces, ingeniously thrown up, so as to prevent the earth from falling, and facilitate

the circulation of the rain and canal waters.

Rice, corn, maize, and millet, almost all our vegetables, shrubs, and the greater part of our domestic animals, are found in China; as well as the sugar-cane, cotton and silk. Hence, apparently, were derived the first orange-trees, so fortunately naturalized at a subsequent period in the south of Europe. The hortensia, a beautiful flower, which has been so rapidly propagated in Europe, was introduced from this part of the world by Earl Macartney: the camphor; tallow-tree; bamboo, of which their paper is made, and which is converted to various purposes; the varnish-tree, and aloës, whose medullary part is in such estimation among the Chinese, are of the number of the products of this country; but the chief is, beyond all question, the tea-tree, the consumption of which in Europe, and more particularly in England, has almost classed it with the necessities of life.

The animal kingdom is not less worthy of notice. The plumage of the birds is magnificent. The gold and silver pheasants, and the fishes which we preserve in globular glasses, may give some idea of their splendour.

Every species of metal is to be met with in this country ; coal-mines, marble-quarries, rocks of mineral salt, and inexhaustible stores of saltpetre.

If, in the opinion of Europeans, tea occupies the first rank in the natural productions of China, we must distinguish among its works of art, the beautiful porcelain, which even Europe has not yet been able to surpass ; for although our pencil-work may be more delicate and elegant, yet in brilliancy and permanency of colour, and in the composition of the china, it is certainly inferior.

China contains about six hundred thousand square miles. Authors differ ma-

terially in estimating its population. Earl Macartney takes it at three hundred and thirty-three millions of souls; but there is reason to believe that his calculation is exaggerated, and that others, who suppose it to be two hundred millions, are nearer the truth.

The antiquity of this people is a subject on which writers are still less agreed: authentic monuments seem to date their existence for four thousand years. During this long space of time, although many dynasties have succeeded, and the country has twice been conquered by the Tartars, whose second dynasty still enjoys the throne, their manners continue in almost pristine purity: the attachment of the Chinese to ancient customs, their dislike of innovation, of whatever kind, is the cause of this phenomenon; and twice has the wondrous fact been witnessed in that country, of the conquerors submitting their manners to those of the conquered.

The Chinese have, from time immemorial, possessed the art of engraving on wood, and have had in use the compass, gunpowder, and many other discoveries. It is scarcely possible that they should have derived them from Europe, neither can it be supposed that they found their way to Europe from China at a time when no relations subsisted between them. Mark Paul, the Venetian, was the first who, in the thirteenth century, discovered and made known to Europe the immense and flourishing empire of Cathay, the existence of which was, till then, never even imagined. They have monuments of labour which, for immensity, surpass those of the Romans, and bring to mind the gigantic enterprises of the Egyptians; bridges of prodigious span and slightrness; magnificent roads, kept up with extreme care, in particular those from Pekin to the imperial palace of Ge-Hol in Tartary, which is constantly cleaned, levelled, and repaired : at regular distances are post-houses, at which sol-

diers are in readiness to carry dispatches, and to relieve each other; and between which, urgent communications are conveyed by signals analogous to those of our telegraphs. The canals are innumerable; one, the grand imperial canal from Canton to Peking, is 1800 miles in extent. The great wall which separates China from the Mantchou country is about 1500 miles long, carried over high mountains and into deep vallies.

The Chinese are tolerant almost beyond example, in matters of religion; from which it may be inferred that every species of worship is pleasing to them, so long as it contains the pure and sublime morality of their philosopher Confucius, and that it is not incompatible with their blind belief in magic, and superstitions of every kind. The Roman Catholic religion, however, has never made much progress in China.

Previous to the arrival of the missionaries, the Chinese practised four kinds of religion: that of Confucius, which consists in the law of nature, and deism, is the religion of the literati, and of the chief personages in the state; that of Lao-Kiun or Tao-Tse, which appears to be merely a corruption of the former; that of Fo or Bouddha, which is grossly idolatrous, and is the religion of the emperor, of the government, and of all the Tartars about the court; and the sect of Yon-Kian, which comes so nearly to the law of nature, or doctrine of Confucius, that many writers have made no distinction between the two.

The principal object of Chinese worship is a Supreme Being, whom they adore under the name of Chang-Ti; that is to say, Sovereign Emperor.

Tien is the spirit which presides in heaven, and which they sometimes invoke as the Deity himself.

The emperor, although of the sect of Fo, considers himself obliged to conform to the ancient rites; and he accordingly sacrifices to the spirits of heaven and earth.

Confucius, whose Chinese name is Kong-Fou-Tse, was born, according to the notions of the missionaries, in the year 551 before Christ, and two years before the death of Thales, one of the seven sages of Greece. He was cotemporary with the famous Pythagoras, and some years anterior to Socrates. He was minister to the king of Lu, his native country; and he obtained successively the favour of many sovereigns, although he was often overwhelmed with disgust, and could not always obtain attention to the voice of wisdom. He died at the age of seventy-three. His disciples built him a tomb near Kio-Fou, the place of his nativity. It is now surrounded by houses, and has the appearance of a little town.

The sect of Tao-Tse was founded by a philosopher named Lao-Kiun. He is pretended to have remained eighty years in his mother's womb. The missionaries fancy that, from his writings, he had some idea of the Trinity, as he says, "Tay," that is, the law of reason, "produced one; one produced two; two produced three; and three produced all things."

These sectaries are distinguished for an absurdity which it is astonishing that experience should not have made them throw aside. They lay claim to the discovery of a beverage which confers immortality: but I do not apprehend that they venture to bring forward living proofs of its efficacy.

The sect of Fo is the most complicated in the articles of its faith, and was brought to China from India, 65 years before Christ,

The emperor Ming-Ti, having been reminded, by a dream, that Confucius had frequently been heard to say that the saint would make his appearance on the western side, sent ambassadors to India, to discover what this saint could be, and to initiate themselves in his doctrines. They returned with the idolatry of Bouddha, the name of which the Chinese changed to that of Fo, because they have no letter B, and it is contrary to their custom to adopt any foreign name. The mother of Fo was called Mo-Ya; during her pregnancy she constantly dreamed that she had swallowed an elephant: whence originated the honour which the Indian kings pay to the white elephants. Fo stood upon his feet from the moment of his birth; he took seven steps, and pronounced these words: "In heaven and on earth I alone am worthy to be adored!" The followers of this idol assert that he was born eighteen thousand times, and that his soul has passed successively into the bodies of different animals.

In proof of the little importance which the Chinese attach to these reveries, for salvation, the priests of Tao-Tse and of Fo live on very good terms ; frequently inhabiting the same temples, in which they perform their respective ceremonies, and very rarely disagree.

The era of the introduction of Christianity into the Chinese empire, cannot be precisely ascertained ; it appears to have been very far back ; but the remembrance of it was almost wholly done away when Francis Xavier, the Apostle of India, arrived in 1542 at Sancian, on the coast of the province of Canton, where he died before he had set his foot on shore. Thirty years afterwards, the Fathers Roger and Ricci, owing to their knowledge in mathematics, obtained access to China. The Jesuits met with various changes of fortune at court. In 1631, Father Adam Schaal was in great favour at the court of the emperor Yong-Li, whom he baptised, together with the empress ; but the irrup-

tion of the Tartars, and the defeat of the emperor, subverted all the hopes which the missionaries had conceived. The Jesuits were expelled; but Schaal, owing to his great merits, was specially exempted from this disgrace by the conqueror.

At the accession of Kang-Hi, great-grandfather to the present emperor, who ascended the throne at eighteen years of age, Schaal was appointed his tutor. The esteem in which this missionary was held, saved Macao from ruin, when all the places on the coast were destroyed, to cut off the provision from the army which then contended for the establishment of the old dynasty.

A general insurrection at length took place against the missionaries, who were all thrown into prison on the 12th Nov. 1664. Father Schaal, at that time seventy-eight years old, was laden with irons, and put upon his trial. He heard the sentence passed upon him which

condemned him to die by being strangled, as the least infamous punishment in China; but which was changed to that of being cut to pieces, which is considered to be the most cruel and ignominious. The approbation of the government, which was administered by four regents during the minority of Kang-Hi, was alone wanting to carry this horrid and barbarous decree into execution.

Heaven, however, declared in favour of the Jesuits. An earthquake spread terror in every mind. The people thought they discovered in it the effects of Divine vengeance; and the regency was forced to set the Chinese converts at liberty, but the missionaries were suffered to remain in prison. The earthquake being repeated with increased violence, the alarm of the people likewise increased; the missionaries were set free, but the virtuous Schaal did not long survive the persecution: he died in 1666.

From that period, the missionaries were held in scarcely any favour at court. The emperor Kien-Long recalled them, it is true, towards the conclusion of his reign, because he felt the necessity of attaching them to some native Chinese, to form a board of mathematics, and assist in the formation of the calendar, so important in the eyes of the Chinese. The events which happened in Europe at the close of the last century, left the missionaries deserted; their respective governments, whose whole attention was occupied by more pressing concerns, neither thought of sending them assistance nor successors.

Besides the four religions already mentioned, and the Roman Catholic religion, the Jewish and Mahomedan laws have made more or less progress in certain provinces of the empire. For further details see the descriptions of Plates XI. and XVIII.

THE EMPEROR KIEN-LONG.



THIS prince, whose fifteenth son now fills the throne of China, is known by the description of his person given in the Accounts of the Embassies of Earl Macartney, in 1792, and of Van-Braam and Titsing, in 1794.

We have given his name, Kien-Long, on the authority of the missionaries; of M. de Guignes, and of Mr. Barrow: it is more conformable to the Chinese pronunciation, though Sir George Staunton adopts that of Tchien-Long; and Mr. Barrow remarks, that the name of Kien is very little used except in the southern provinces. Kien-Long, who, at the time of these memorable embassies, was eighty-three or eighty-four years of age, was so little susceptible of natural infirmities, that he possessed all the activity of a




A. Cardon delin.

KIEN LONG EMPEROR OF CHINA.

Pub. 25 April 1812 by T. L. Stockdale 41 Pall Mall

stout healthy man of sixty—his eyes were black, lively, and penetrating, and his countenance had not lost its colour. His person was perfectly upright, his stature about five feet ten inches: he had a good constitution, and his extreme regularity contributed, in no small degree, to keep it so. He rose constantly at three o'clock in the morning, winter and summer.



In common with all the Mantchou Tartars, he was passionately fond of the chase. He was a skilful archer, and was scarcely inferior, in drawing a strong bow, to his grandfather Kang-Hi, who boasted in his will, that he had bent a bow of power equal to about one hundred and fifty pounds weight. His intellectual were adequate to his physical powers: his imagination was very quick, and he attained some eminence as a poet: his most celebrated work is an Ode on Tea. He also composed a poem descriptive of the country of Moukden in Tartary.

Although he was so perfectly master of the Chinese language, he nevertheless had a very excusable predilection in favour of that of his ancestors, the Mantchou Tartars, and took great pains to promulgate it. He ordered all children whose parents were one Tartar and the other Chinese, to learn the Mantchou sufficiently to undergo an examination in the two languages.

He was a great warrior, and made some important conquests. He was passionately fond of women. Being once at Sanchou-Fou, a city celebrated for the beauty of its females, he was smitten with the charms of a beautiful young Chinese, and resolved to take her to his capital: the empress hung herself for grief on the news of his attachment.

A singular anecdote is related on this subject. One of his sons felt much embarrassed what line of conduct to pursue on his mother's death. To go into mourn-

ing would be a kind of insult to his father; and to omit it would be disrespectful to the memory of his mother. His tutor advised him to wear both dresses at once, and in this state he waited upon Kien-Long, having his full dress over the suit of mourning. The emperor was irritated at it, and gave his son so violent a kick, that the young prince, after languishing some days, died in consequence.

He at that time had four other sons; but the prime-minister, Hochoung-Taung, contrived to set him very much against them: he also in like manner prejudiced him against those he had after this period; so that he made none of his first-born heir to his power. He abdicated on the 8th of February 1796, in favour of his fifteenth son, or (as some say) his seventeenth son. Kien-Long was then eighty-six years old; he lived three years after his retirement, and died in February 1799.

The young prince, who still fills the throne by the name of Kia-King, retained the minister during his father's life; but Kien-Long had no sooner closed his eyes than he caused his old favourite to be strangled. The sentence was passed on twenty charges, which Mr. Barrow specifies in his Voyage, and which were either ridiculous and frivolous, or failed in proof. Among other subjects of complaint, it was stated that "under pretence of being lame, he was carried on his way to and from the palace through the emperor's private gate!"

Kien-Long, of whom the annexed portrait is a correct likeness, wore a gown of brown silk, and a velvet cap surmounted by a large pearl. This last decoration is peculiar to the sovereign and his presumptive heir.

The emperor of China enjoys a literally absolute power; he is accountable for his conduct to no department of the state:

but, as Mr. Barrow ingeniously observes, this power is tempered by the institutions of the country.

The patriarchal manners of China impose on the son the duty of making solemn offerings to the manes of his forefathers; a ceremony which reminds the emperor that the remembrance of his private conduct and public actions will be retained long after his life; that every year, at certain periods, his name will be pronounced from one extremity of the empire to the other, either with respect and love, or with horror and execrations.

In a word, if in this country the prince does enjoy unbounded authority, it is rather as the father of his subjects than as their lord and master. The government may be more properly termed patriarchal than despotic; and the name of the hundred families given to the Chinese nation collectively, sufficiently denotes that the natives consider themselves as brothers.

The titles of the sovereign of China are, Son of Heaven, and Master of the Earth. His latter title is literally correct, he being the owner of all the soil of China—the subject merely enjoys his land as a concession from the monarch, and subject to a rent which is paid in kind.

No one can speak to him in any other than a kneeling posture, unless authorized to the contrary. The mandarins kneel, in like manner, before his throne, his clothes, and his chair of state. On public occasions they prostrate themselves nine times. No one can go through the grand gate of the palace on horseback; he must dismount.

The bright yellow colour belongs exclusively to the emperor and his children. The other princes, viceroys, and ministers, are clad in stuff of another shade of yellow, for which the sovereign's permission is still necessary. The mandarins in ge-

neral, and even the more distant branches of the emperor's family, are clothed in violet. The dragon with five claws, is again another attribute of the imperial power. The emperor's dispatches, the edicts, and public acts, are dated with the year of his reign, and the day of the moon. The imperial seal is square; it consists of a fine jasper of the size of about eight digits. None but the emperor can have a seal of this description; those of the princes are gold; of the vice-roys and mandarins of the first rank, silver; and of the inferior mandarins, of brass or lead. The importance attached to it is infinite; of which the following is an example:—

A mandarin inspector, from whom a mandarin of a higher class, his mortal enemy, had caused his seals to be stolen, was apprehensive that this loss might involve the loss of his place, and perhaps of his life. What did he do to effect the restitution of this precious object? He

set fire to his own dwelling-house in the night, and then, in the presence of the by-standers, saved the little casket in which his seals were generally deposited, and carried it to his enemy, entreating that he would take especial care of his charge. The mandarin, in his turn, apprehensive of being accused with having stolen the seals, was forced to replace them in the box; and thus, in spite of himself, restored tranquillity to the person whom he wished to ruin.

Foreign ambassadors are not permitted to reside in China. Their stay in the capital is temporary, and limited to forty days, though this term has sometimes been suffered to elapse twice over. They, and all their retinue, travel wholly at the emperor's charge. The persons attached to Lord Macartney's embassy, from motives of delicacy, denied themselves many articles which they wished for, because they were not permitted to purchase them

at their private expense, every thing being furnished *gratis*.

It has been stated erroneously, that the emperor alone is entitled to have his palace exactly facing the south. The fact is, that the greater part of the private houses face the south, as far as it is practicable, as it is considered the most healthy position.

The Feast of Agriculture of the Chinese is universally known; the emperor presides, and, in the spring, ploughs some furrows with his own hand.

The emperor of China sometimes assumes the name of Father and Mother of the country. The people regard him as a being almost divine; and many emperors have fancied themselves gods. Kang-Hi, after his mother's death, proclaimed her goddess of the Nine Flowers.

Kien-Long, notwithstanding his wisdom, believed that the god Fo was incarnate in his person. He is said to have been jealous of the honours which were paid to the Great-Lama of Tibet: consequently, when the Great-Lama repaired to his court in 1779, and a natural accident deprived him of life, slander and calumny went to work on the occasion, and attributed the unlooked-for death of the chief of the religion of the Lamas, to the effect of poison, rather than to that of disease.





A. Cardon del. et sculp.

MANDARIN. . . CHINESE LADY.

Pub. 25 April 1812 by J. J. Stockdale 41 Pall Mall

A MANDARIN, AND A FEMALE OF RANK,
IN THEIR SUMMER FULL DRESSES.

MANDARIN is not a Chinese term, but derived from the Portuguese word *Mandar*, which signifies commander.

The mandarins are magistrates, whose situations may be changed at pleasure: they are chosen from every class, but those of judicature and the sword are almost always taken from the classes of labourers, artificers, and traders. Services rendered to the state, or personal merit, are the only means whereby this dignity can be attained.

There is but one family in China which enjoys a kind of hereditary nobility; it is the family of Confucius, which has been in existence above two thousand years. The lineal descendants of that

great philosopher are extinct; but a nephew is still in being, on whom has been conferred the title Ching'-Jinto-Chi-Coul, the nephew of the great man. His posterity is distinguished by the honourable denomination of Kong.

The number of mandarins throughout the whole empire is stated at 493,000; each of whom is attached to a tribunal for some particular administration. They are divided into two orders, civil and military; are exempt from taxes and contributions; are permitted to borrow, from the public stock, sums in proportion to their rank; and their salary, which is moderate, is paid six months in advance. According to Father Trigaut, the highest salary is less than a thousand crowns. The smallness of their emoluments induces them to commit every species of exaction. When they go on any particular mission their expenses are defrayed by the government.

They have the exclusive right of wearing gold-embroidered clothes. Their costume is of two kinds, a summer and a winter dress: the first is put on about the middle of April; the latter, which is trimmed with furs, about the middle of October.

✓ There are nine orders of mandarins, distinguishable by the button, the plate, and the girdle.

✓ The button, in the first order, is of ruby; in the second, of worked coral; in the third, of sapphire, or transparent blue stone; in the fourth, of azure or opaque blue; in the fifth, of rock-crystal, or transparent white; in the sixth, of a marine shell, or opaque white; in the seventh and eighth, of gold without ornament, but variously wrought; and in the ninth, of wrought silver.

✓ The emperor sometimes grants the mandarins the special distinction of

wearing a peacock's feather in their hats.

✓ Their robes are embroidered in squares both before and behind, with the figure of a pelican, Guinea-fowl, peacock, crane, pheasant, bear, swan, tiger, &c. according to their degrees. The ornament of the civil mandarins is uniformly one of the feathered, and that of the military mandarins of the four-footed race.

(The princes, viceroys, and ministers have the same embroidery, only that it is round instead of square.

These magistrates are responsible for the irregularities of their administration ; they are closely watched, but it does not prevent many of their acts of rapine and abuses of power remaining concealed and unpunished. The missionaries, according to M. de Guignes, somewhat exaggerate mandarin politeness when they

state that the grandees dare not strike a match-seller.

The retinue of persons in office is very considerable; and, as magnificence is supposed to consist more in the number than the outfit of the suite, the consequence is, that the mandarins are not unfrequently surrounded by servants and guards absolutely in rags.

✓ The gowns of the Chinese ladies are very long, extending from the neck to the heels, so that the face only is uncovered; their hands are always concealed in very wide and long cuffs: the colour of their dress may be red, blue, or green.

The females of this country are moderately well shaped: they have short noses, small but lively eyes, good mouths, rosy lips, black hair, and long ears with pendants: their complexion is florid, their form bespeaks gaiety and freedom, and their features are regular. They

nearly all use paint, which is sold ready-made, both white and rose-coloured. The hands, which are commonly brown, form a strange contrast to the whiteness of the face.

The most desirable charm among women of a certain rank is extremely small feet: this is accomplished by having them bound up, from their childhood, in a case which is never removed, and which impedes their growth. The village-girls, in some provinces, imitate this absurd custom. The great toe is suffered to retain its natural position, but the others are confined, until, compressed and adhering to the sole of the foot, they can no more be separated from it. We are assured that this fashion did not originate in the absurd and tyrannical pride of husbands, who would reduce their wives to complete inactivity, but in the example of a princess who voluntarily submitted herself to it. The Tartar females do not accustom themselves to this mutilation.

Some of them wear an ornament on the head, made of brass or silver gilt, representing the fong-hoang or phoenix of the Chinese. The extended wings wave gently over the front of the head-dress, and the spreading tail forms an aigrette on the middle of the head.

The Chinese ladies live very retired, wholly engaged in their household affairs, and how to please their husbands; they are not, however, confined quite so closely as is commonly supposed. "The women," says the younger De Guignes, "go and come in the streets of Pekin, without restraint; we met many of them on foot, and others in open carriages." The Chinese ladies who are rich, or otherwise of consequence, are preceded by servants. The facility with which they sit cross-legged makes room for two or three in the same carriage.

The females visit entirely amongst each other; there is no society or circle.

in China to which the women are admitted. Marriages are a matter of mere convenience, or, to speak with greater propriety, a kind of bargain settled between the relatives. The girl has no right of choice nor refusal in the husband who is proposed; neither is the man any better off: he is never permitted to see his wife until the moment in which she is brought to him with great pomp. The key of the sedan-chair, or carriage, is previously sent to him; if, when he unlocks it, he finds the female not suited to his taste, it is at his option to send her back; but in this case, he loses all the presents he made her parents for the purpose of obtaining her, and is bound to return the value of all which he received from them.



A. Cardon del. xit

SEDAN CHAIR OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

Pub^d 25 April 1812 by J. I. Stockdale at Pall Mall

SEDAN-CHAIR OF THE PRIME MINISTER.



THE prime minister, or Grand Colao, becomes, in right of his office (if he were not so before), a mandarin of the first rank. His costume is the same as that of a prince of the blood: for which see the preceding Plate.

This print represents the mode of travelling in a sedan-chair, coolis, or palanquin.

The ministers or grandees alone are entitled to have their palanquin covered with green cloth. They also use vehicles like those of private persons, except that they are closed in front, and that the wheels are placed quite behind to make the jolting of the carriage less uneasy. Lord Macartney was secretly instructed

to endeavour to learn at Peking, the manner in which the carriages were hung. He had a superb berlin for his own use; and one of the presents which he brought for the emperor was a chariot decorated with the utmost magnificence.

The Chinese, who cannot bear any thing like innovation, shewed an invincible dislike to this kind of carriage: a mandarin, whom the ambassador took into his chariot with him, trembled at every motion, and always thought he was going to be overturned. The most serious inconvenience was the necessity for the coach-box being in front, and raised higher than the seats of those within. The mandarin protested that his master would never enter such a vehicle. The alterations made in it were by no means satisfactory, and the emperor's chariot remained in a kind of lumber-room, disregarded and confounded with other objects of infinitely inferior value.

In the previous narration, page 44, of the striking disgrace of the prime minister of Kien-Long, we have sufficiently shewn the vicissitudes to which the great are exposed in China, as in all countries where the powers are confounded, and subject to the caprice of an individual. One of these victims of fortune, Li-See, was taken in the morning from an obscure class to be made prime minister, and that very evening underwent the penalty consequent on an incautious expression.

In the early time of the monarchy, there was less distance between the emperor and his ministers than at present. The minister was considered in the light of a sage and friend; the prince and his minister were looked upon as the head and arm of the same body..

When the British embassy landed on the Chinese territory, a sufficient number of sedan-chairs were assigned for the whole retinue of the legation: even.

the private soldiers were carried in this manner; but these, not liking their new mode of conveyance, got out of the litters and induced the Chinese bearers to take their places in the inside, when they carried them in their turn.



A Cardon dirrait

CARRIAGE OF THE KONG TCHOU.

CARRIAGE OF THE KONG-TCHOU, OR OF
THE EMPEROR'S OLDEST DAUGHTER.

THE Kong-Tchou, which signifies the oldest daughter of the emperor, never goes out except with a numerous retinue. She can see, but is not seen. When she takes the air, either in her carriage or litter, men armed with whips and long bamboo poles, make the passengers range themselves in ranks, and turn their backs upon the procession as a mark of respect.

Some have asserted that passers-by were also forced to turn their backs upon the emperor, which in Europe would be the height of impertinence: but modern travellers contradict this. Two eunuchs attend at the door of the carriage, which is yellow, and is not unlike a prison in shape.

The emperor's oldest son, who is called Hoan-Tay-Tse, or Ago (the latter is a Tartar denomination), generally goes out on horseback, with an immense cavalcade. On his cap is a button, composed of three golden dragons, ornamented with thirteen pearls, and surmounted with one larger than the rest. The monarch's other sons, called Hoang-Tse, wear the same button, except that it is topped by a ruby in place of a large pearl.

One remarkable circumstance is, that the carriages of the princes of the blood, and of the emperor himself, are never drawn by more than one horse. The distinction of ranks by the number of horses to a carriage is unknown in China. It would indeed be no easy matter to guide a number of horses attached to a carriage not unlike our tilt-carts, and which most probably accounts for this not being adopted.

The emperor's daughters are never called to the throne, either in their own, or in a foreign country; for they only intermarry with the Chinese. The emperor bestows them on his principal mandarins, by whom it is received as a very high mark of distinction and favour.

The emperor himself never contracts an alliance by marriage with a foreign princess. At the period of his accession, the highest personages of the country, whose daughters are young and handsome, present them to him, that he may choose a wife from among them. The family on whom the choice falls acquires great honour and credit by it. The number of his wives is unlimited; but the reigning wife, termed Hoang-Heou, has peculiar prerogatives.

The emperor's women, close shut up in great numbers in a seraglio, hold no communication with the world, and may be said to have no idea of it.

They sometimes indeed assist at the court ceremonies behind lattice-work, where they can see without being seen. The son of Sir George Staunton (who has now acceded to the title), the chief personage of Earl Macartney's suite, it appears, attracted the notice of these ladies; they desired to see him nearer, and he was accordingly so placed that they could look at him at their leisure.

Some of the emperors, willing to gratify the curiosity of their wives, who wished to know the interior arrangement of the capital, built within the parks of Ge-Hol and Yuen-Ming-Yuen, some miniature towns, containing, on a small scale, the most prominent features of the streets of Peking.

When an emperor dies, his widows cannot marry again, however high the rank of the suitor may be. They are taken to a particular house within the walls of the palace, named the Palace of

Chastity, where they endeavour to divert their perpetual imprisonment by such amusements and fêtes as their situation admits of.

A MANDARIN, OF THE FIFTH ORDER,
GOING TO COURT IN HIS FULL DRESS.

THE inferior mandarins seldom venture to decide on affairs of consequence themselves, being obliged to report upon them to those of the higher rank. The governors of towns refer to the Tou-Tching-Tse, or treasurer-general of their district, and to the Fou-Yuen, or governor of the province. These two provincial officers acknowledge no superior but the tribunals of the capital. The Tsong-You, or viceroy, who is higher than the Fou-Yuen, and has the administration of two or three provinces, is subject to the same tribunals; but his post is of such importance, that he cannot be removed from it, except by being made minister of state, or president of one of the high courts of justice.



A Cardon direxit

MANDARIN of *5th* CLASS.

Pub. 25 April 1822 by J. I. Stockdale 41 Pall Mall

We have already given the honorary marks which distinguish the mandarins, not only from the multitude, but from those of a different rank. They are in general very jealous of their rights and prerogatives; they are only spoken to in a kneeling posture. They go out attended by all the officers of their court. At the head of the retinue are two officers of the police, with long flat bamboo sticks for inflicting the bastinado; men who beat loos, or copper basins, a kind of Chinese drum, which produces an extremely hoarse sound; executioners with chains, whips, and scymetars, also form part of the suite. Next come the parasol-, standard-, and other bearers of the marks of dignity peculiar to the mandarin. His litter is preceded by horse soldiers, and is borne by four men, surrounded with servants and infantry. The palanquins are either carried by four men, as in the annexed Plate, or suspended between two horses or mules.

Horses are esteemed a great luxury in China, and are very uncommon. M. de Guignes estimates the whole number of those who keep saddle-horses at only 242,000. The horses are small, not handsome, and far from elegant in their paces.

The mandarins of Peking, who are in the habit of riding, prefer mules, because their keep is less expensive than that of the horse, and they bear fatigue better.

There are wild mules in Tartary, which vary both in gait and make from the domestic mules. The Tartars eat their flesh as food. In the western part of the empire are camels and wild horses. The latter go in numerous herds, and when they meet any domesticated horses, surround them, for the purpose of enticing them away. The horses of Tartary scarcely ever tire, and are particularly bold in hunting wild beasts.





A. Gordon direxit

CHINESE SOLDIERS.

A SOLDIER BEATING THE EVENING
WATCH ON A BAMBOO CYLINDER—
AND A SOLDIER CARRYING THE LAN-
TERN BEFORE THE OFFICER OF THE
ROUNDS.

THE city gates, and the barriers at the end of each street, are carefully closed at night-fall. No one of any respectability is to be seen in the streets throughout the night. They are filled with patrols, who carry in their left hand a hollow cylinder of bamboo, on which they strike, not only as a proof that they are on their watch, but to tell the hour, and what weather it is. They interrogate whomsoever they meet in their rounds; and if they receive satisfactory answers, let them pass through a wicket fixed to the barrier. They carry lanterns, on

which are inscribed their names, and those of the posts they belong to.

The piece of wood, or hollow bamboo, is sometimes, instead of being cylindrical, shaped like a fish, two feet and a half long by six inches in diameter.—It was some time, says Mr. Barrow, before we could accustom ourselves to the noise of these cylinders, which, for many nights, prevented our sleeping.

The officers who go the rounds are frequently mounted on asses, preceded by a soldier with a dark lantern.

The police is not confined merely to this protection; the master of every tenth house is obliged to keep watch for the maintenance of good order, and to make his servants mount guard.

The Chinese divide the day into twelve hours; the first beginning at our eleven o'clock at night, and ending at one

o'clock in the afternoon. Every hour is divided into two poenchy, or half-hours, and each poenchy into four quarters, termed chy-ke.

The twelve hours are named after different animals, as follows: the rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, serpent, horse, sheep, ape, hen, dog, and pig.

The night is divided into five watches; the first of which is announced at the different military stations, by a stroke on the drum or loo; the second by two strokes, and so on.

In the whole world there is not perhaps a country where lanterns are so much in use as in China; nor where so much variety, art, and elegance are displayed in making them. It is perfectly reasonable for the soldiers on guard to carry a lantern with them in their rounds; but what is very singular, and seems truly absurd, is, that in their military evolutions they carry it likewise, instead of arms.

We arrived before Tong-Tchang-Fou, says Mr. Barrow, in the evening; the soldiers, who were drawn up in line, each drew from under his coat a superb lighted lantern, with which they went through a kind of exercise.

The celebrated Feast of Lanterns is observed every year at a fixed period. The whole empire is illuminated from one extremity to the other, and in all the various modes which imagination can suggest.

The lanterns are frequently made of transparent paper, or gauze, but more often of horn, so fine, so pellucid, that foreigners, at first sight, suppose them to be glass. Each lantern consists of a single piece of horn, the joinings in which are, from their nicety in amalgamating them by softening them in boiling water, not to be distinguished.





A. P. Smith sculp.

TARTAR SOLDIERS.

TARTAR SOLDIERS GOING TO MOUNT
GUARD AT THE PALACE GATES.

ACCORDING to the notes given to Lord Macartney by the mandarin Van-Ta-Gin, the Chinese army amounts to a million foot, and eight hundred thousand horse; but this may be the nominal strength, supposing every regiment to be full, and not the effective rank and file. M. de Guignes, the younger, reckons the infantry at six hundred thousand, of which ninety-five thousand are Tartars; and the cavalry at two hundred and forty-two thousand; which is very strong, considering the few horses which China produces, and the difficulty of importing them from abroad.

The Tartar troops are distinct from the Chinese: the former are under their own

general; while the latter are dispersed throughout the cities, forts, and guard-posts of every province.

Among the Tartars, the highest military officer is the Tsiang-Kiun; he has the immediate command of three thousand men, and has two Tou-Tong under him, each of whom has the command of one thousand. The Tou-Tong of the left, ranks highest; the left among the Tartars being the post of honour.

The highest provincial military officer of the Chinese is the Ty-Tou; he has five thousand men under him, one thousand of which are cavalry. The Tchong-Kiun, or lieutenant-general, commands three thousand; and six Tzong-Ping under him, commanding three thousand each.

As China is in a state of profound peace, the soldier's life is subject to very little danger; it is rather lucrative too, and is therefore desirable. The Chinese

soldiers are enrolled in their provinces, and attached to the corps which are resident there. The Tartar male children are all born soldiers : enrolled under eight banners, they possess the territories attached to them; but being merely tenants, they can only dispose of them in favour of some of the same family.

The soldier is his own master in China, except during the period of exercise, which is at the time of the new moons, and from being present at which foreigners are strictly prohibited.

Lord Macartney and his suite had some opportunity of forming an opinion of the state of the troops, as they received military honours on their way. Mr. Barrow says that what he saw were very ill disciplined. In hot weather, the soldiers were more disposed to use their fans than their firelocks. They were sometimes drawn up in line, and knelt before the ambassador. Their parade

uniformly seems better adapted to theatrical performers than to military men.

Their quilted petticoats, satin boots, and fans, formed a singular contrast to the variety and meanness of their private employments and situations. The uniform varies in different provinces.

In war-time, the soldier receives, besides his customary pay, six months in advance, and the government gives his family part of his pay for their subsistence. The pay of a foot soldier is about 18s. 4d. per month, and that of the cavalry 1l. 17s. 6d.

The Chinese military are punished by being beaten with a bamboo, and the Tartars are flogged with a whip.

Among the Tartar soldiers who mount guard at the palace, some have to bring engines in case of fire; others tools, such

as rakes, pick-axes, &c. to clean and repair the roads which the emperor travels to go to Peking, or to return to Hai-Tien.

WATER-CART FOR THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

VERY large tin vessels of a cubical form, and which fit to each other, are used for conveying water to the palace, for the emperor and his family. These are as convenient as our water-carts, and preferable, as it is not requisite to pour the water from one to another. Very great attention is paid to taking the water from that part of the stream which is the clearest. The carts are followed by eunuchs and confidential officers, who never lose sight of them. The least neglect in what relates to the daily consumption of the emperor and princes, would be liable to very rigorous punishment.

In the imperial palace are mandarin purveyors, whose respective functions are particularly designated—one brings milk, another bread, &c. &c.



A London drosch

WATER CART OF THE PALACE.





A. Preschi sculpit

TARTAR WOMAN & CHILD.

Pub.^d 1. May 1819. by J. L. Stockdale, 41. Pall Mall

A TARTAR WOMAN AND CHILD.

THE Tartars having, from their first invasion, evinced the greatest contempt for most of the customs of the conquered, it is not to be wondered at that their females should have rejected the fashions of the Chinese women; particularly that of having small feet. They not only give their foot its natural length, but even add to it by a long curved shoe, which the Chinese, in derision, call Tartar junks, from the resemblance they bear to those vessels. The upper covering of their shoes is commonly of embroidered satin, and the sole of paper or cloth, doubled to the thickness of an inch.

The Tartar women have a frank and confident look; they appear willingly in public, and are met in great num-

bers in the streets of Peking. They sometimes walk, and sometimes ride on horseback, sitting, not aside, in the manner of English ladies, but across like men. They wear long silk gowns which reach to their heels. Their hair is fastened up and smoothed on all sides, nearly in the Chinese manner. Although they use as much paint, red and white, as the Chinese, it may easily be seen that their complexion is naturally finer.

They almost all ornament their hair with flowers. The custom of smoking, and sometimes of chewing betel, makes their teeth yellow.

They generally have a piece of wove silk, which serves instead of a shift, over which is a vest, and large silk drawers, which in winter are trimmed with fur; above this vest again is a long satin robe, with an elegant girdle round the waist. A fine shape is one of their characteristics of beauty.

They still further differ from the women of China, as the latter suffer their nails to grow, and only retain sufficient of their eyebrows to form a very thin arch.

The men also take part with the women in the uncomfortable vanity of suffering their nails to grow, for the purpose of shewing that they can live without manual labour. The opulent, the learned, and the mandarins, usually let the nails of the left hand grow.

M. de Guignes saw the hand of a Chinese physician, whose longest nail was twelve inches and a half, and the others nine and ten inches; for the purpose of obtaining this singular species of gratification, he had been obliged to keep his fingers constantly in small bamboo cases.

THE GRAND LAMA IN HIS FULL DRESS,
AND LAMA OF THE TARTAR BANNERS:

THE number of priests, or Bonzes, who reside within the Chinese empire, may amount to a million. They are divided into two classes—the 'Tao-Tse, or disciples of Lao-Kiun, and the Ho-Chang, or priests of Fo. It should be observed, that the religion of Fo, in China, is similar to that of Bouddha in Tibet. The history and attributes of this deity are also nearly the same as those of the Amida of Japan, and the gods worshipped under various names, at Siam, at Pegu, and in the kingdom of Ava.

The Tartars, with whom the worship of Fo is still more prevalent than with the Chinese, give their priests the name of Lamas. The chief of this hierarchy is



A. Prestu sculpsit

GRAND LAMA. LAMA of the Banners

Pub. 4th May 1812 by L. J. Stoddart, 41 Pall Mall

the Dalai-Lama of Tibet, who is not only the head of the religion, and the visible representative of the Divinity, like the Pope in the Romish church, but a pretended god immortal and incarnate.

The people are persuaded that the Lama never dies, and that he merely changes his corporeal residence. The Lama is no sooner dead, or, according to their belief, God has scarcely withdrawn himself from the veneration of men, as a punishment for their crimes, than the priests pretend to have discovered, by certain signs, an infant, in whom the soul of the eternal Lama has vouchsafed to incorporate itself. This child is sometimes several years of age, and is instructed in his part; but the choice generally falls on a new-born infant.

The discovery of the precious babe is no sooner made, than the priests install him in the palace, render him the same honours as the deceased, and perhaps

persuade even himself, by a repetition of different traits in the lives of his predecessors, that he has always existed, and has only undergone an actual metempsychosis. It has been already shewn in the historical sketch, to what circumstances the introduction of the Tibetan worship into China was owing.

The religion of Fo being the religion of the prince, the priests who attend upon it are the most favoured, and possess the richest and most magnificent temples. Some of these edifices contain five hundred gilt statues, larger than life, representing either idols or deceased Lamas.

The Grand Lama wears a gown of yellow satin, with an edging of fur. Over it is a scarf of deep red. A yellow cloak the size of the gown, is thrown over all. The cap is a yellow satin mitre, behind which depend two fringes of the same; the boots are likewise yellow; the shoe



A. Pissani sculptor

GRAND LAMA.

TAO-TSE.

Pub. 1. May 1812. by J. I. Stockdale, at Pall Mall



is terminated by a narrow yellow lace on the seams.

The other figure represents a simple Lama of one of the eight Tartar banners. A plain yellow robe, red girdle, and boots, and a kind of hat of yellow silk, compose his whole costume.

The emperor Kien-Long was complimented, in the sixteenth year of his reign, by the Grand Lama of Tibet, who repaired to Peking with a numerous retinue. He was received with great honours, and he distributed to the people many thousand impressions of his hand, traced by himself on leaves of paper, by leaning upon it with his hand, which was previously impregnated with a yellow tint. He soon died there of the small-pox. His funeral obsequies were very magnificent, and his corpse was carried to Teshoo-Loomba, the capital of Tibet, with great and imposing solemnity.

The college of priests was not long in discovering an infant at the breast, in which the deceased pontiff was incarnate. He was proclaimed the true Grand Lama; he was a mere infant, and could not speak, when, in 1783, the English sent the famous embassy to him under Samuel, now General Turner; who published an interesting account of it in 1800.



A. Preschi sculp. sit

A TARTAR WOMAN *making a TSI.*

Pub. 25 April 1862 by J. E. Stockdale, at Pall Mall

A TARTAR WOMAN MAKING A TSI, OR
SACRIFICING TO THE SPIRIT OF THE
DOOR TO PREVENT MISFORTUNE FROM
ENTERING HER HOUSE.

ALTHOUGH the religion of the prince is the religion of Fo, or of Bouddha, it is, notwithstanding, neither exclusive, nor even the most prevalent. Every mode of worship is tolerated; and to this may be attributed the reception, which many emperors have given to the French missionaries.

The religion of Confucius is pure deism, or natural religion, intermixed only with somewhat of superstition, and a few ceremonies, confined mostly to the honours paid to the manes of ancestors.

The people, generally, adopt the system of the transmigration of souls; whence arose the trick of the two bonzes who one day kneeled before two fowls, which they made a poor countrywoman give to them, under the pretence that they recognized them as animated by the souls of two of their relatives.

The priests of Fo, like those of the sect of Lao-Kiun, have contrived to plunge and to keep the people in endless superstition. Such is the sacrifice represented in the annexed Plate—a Tartar woman is about to adore a small altar, on which are two lighted tapers, burning, in a kind of perfume-pan, leaves of gold and silver paper. This ceremony commonly takes place at the time of the new and full moon. The sacrifice is made to the Spirit of the Door, a kind of household god.



A. Franchi sculptor

ABONZE performing his VOW.

A BONZE WHO HAS MADE A VOW TO GO A CERTAIN NUMBER OF MILES ON ALL-FOURS.

THERE are no postures, however uneasy, no sufferings, however exquisite, to which the bonzes will not devote themselves to excite the charity of passers-by. China abounds with them as much as India. Some thrust long needles into their cheeks, and will not pull them out until they have received a contribution. Others condemn themselves to drag a heavy chain during their whole lives. Others again, as in the accompanying representation, make a vow to crawl on all-fours, with a saddle on their backs and bridle in their mouths, for nine or twelve miles, and frequently more.

Father Amyot makes a severe, but not an unjust criticism on one of our most celebrated writers. He says,

“ The Eröstratus of Geneva, Jean Jacques Rousseau, would have attached less blame to China, had he been aware that the sublime philosophy of idolatry produced some geniuses superior, in all the prerogatives, to the original state of man. As Europe still adheres to the absurd notions of prudence and decorum, which, as he has very properly observed, are absolutely derogatory to primitive right, we have not ventured to describe many other things which would materially strengthen his discoveries, &c.”

The fact is, that Rousseau, in his *Emilius*, asserts that man, in his natural state, could and must go on all-fours, although this assertion is contradicted not only by sound reason, but likewise by anatomy. Monkeys, which stand erect like men, cannot retain that position long.

without being fatigued. The length of our legs and thighs, and particularly the manner in which the occiput, or hinder part of the scull, is set into the spine of the back, prevent our going on all-fours without serious inconvenience.

Father Lacomte mentions a mortification which one of these fanatics imposed on himself equally strange and torturing. He saw in the middle of a village, a young bonze, mild, affable, and unassuming, sitting upright in an iron chair, the inside of which was stuck full of sharp nails, which prevented his resting himself except at the cost of severe laceration; two porters were dragging him from house to house. "You see," said he, "I am in this situation for the good of your souls; nor shall I quit it until all the nails, above two thousand, with which it is stuck, have been purchased. Every nail," added he, "will cost you sixpence; it will, you may be assured, be a source of blessing to your families: pray take one

of them at any rate; what you give will not go to the bonzes, to whom you can testify your charity in other ways, but to the god Fo, to whom we wish to erect a temple."



A Preshi sculpture

PALACE of YUEN-MING-YUEN.

THE PALACE OF YUEN-MING-YUEN.



THE palace of Yuen-Ming-Yuen, or the autumnal palace of the emperor of China, is at some distance from Peking, and beyond the great town of Hai-Tien.

The gardens are surrounded by walls, and are at least twelve miles in circumference. The English ambassador and his suite were admitted into one part of the park only. To the Dutch ambassadors, who were there two years afterwards, the mandarins apologized for not shewing them, as the buildings were not worth seeing, and were very much out of repair.

The gardens are said to contain thirty distinct palaces, with the out-buildings

to each, for the emperor's principal officers, domestics, and workmen.

These assemblages of edifices, which the Chinese honour with the appellation of palaces, are more remarkable for the number than the magnificence and architectural taste of the buildings. The greater part of the out-offices are nothing more than cottages. The palace in which the emperor resides, and the great hall of audience, would not be very unlike a barn, were they despoiled of the gold and elegant varnish which covers all the wood-work.

The principal hall of audience of Yuen-Ming-Yuen, is raised about four feet higher than the level of the court-yard; a colonnade of large wooden pillars surrounds the whole building, and supports the roof.

A second range of columns placed withinside and opposite to the former,

composes the wall of the hall. The interval between the columns is filled, to the height of six feet, with brick and cement, and above that are lattices, covered with oiled paper; they are open on court-days. The pillars are without capitals.

The hall is one hundred and ten feet long, by forty-four wide, and twenty high. The throne is at the bottom; it is made of red wood, not unlike mahogany.

The ceiling is painted in circles, squares, and polygons variously coloured; the floor is chequered, and of grey marble. The only furniture or ornament visible in the hall are two copper cymbals, four antique china vases, four volumes of manuscripts, and an old English table-clock.

The emperor's apartments are in general composed of a great number of

small rooms very simply furnished ; with the exception of a cabinet named Heaven, the walls of which are covered with paper flowers : all the hangings are of white paper.

In the garden is a river which forms cascades, and ponds containing gold fish, which, it is now wellknown, are originally from this country, and attain a length exceeding a foot. The gardens are of that description which have been successfully imitated in England ; the walks are not regular ; on the contrary, great care has been taken to obviate the natural equality of the ground.

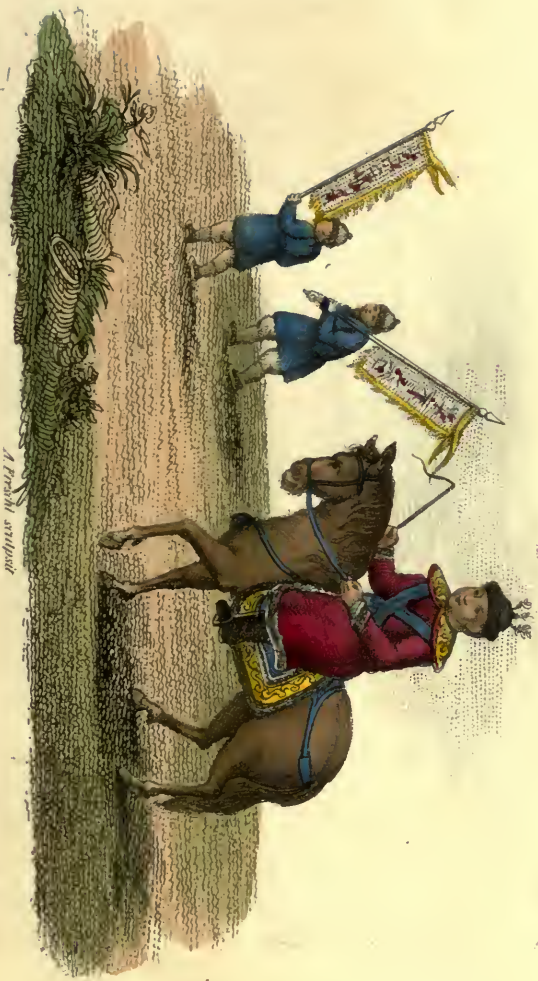
To revert to the gold-fish : though the growth of those kept in Europe is slow, they are the most temperate animals which live, taking scarcely any nourishment : they will do without food for a month together, if they have fresh water every two or three days ; they subsist on the

muddy particles which they find in it. They are very fond of flies and white cake. I made a fish of this kind so tame, that it would come to the surface of the water and eat out of my hand.

A YOUNG LICENTIATE RIDING THROUGH
THE STREETS WITH THE MARKS OF
HIS NEW RANK.

THE attention which the Chinese government pays to the subject of education is truly paternal: there are few villages without a school. From five years of age, the children begin to learn the characters of the Chinese language, which are so numerous and so complicated, that a man's whole life seems scarcely long enough to acquire the knowledge of reading and writing it.

It seems that the schools teach nothing more than the elements of writing; parents who wish their children to have a more finished education, place them in colleges at their own expense; there they go through a course of studies, and suc-



A. French sculpsit

A YOUNG LICENTIALE.

cessively attain to three degrees, which correspond with those of the European universities; namely, bachelors, licentiates, and doctors. These degrees are not conferred without numerous and strict examinations.

The class of letters holds, in some respect, the first rank in the Chinese empire: it is that class which supplies masters for instruction, ministers for administration, and magistrates for government. All literary men are accounted noble, and are free from taxes.

So minute is the plan of education, that it occupies thirty years of close application, and absorbs all that time in which the wanderings of the mind are most to be apprehended.

When a pupil attains the rank of licentiate, it is a day of rejoicing and happiness to the whole family; his parents overwhelm him with caresses: the present

of etiquette is a lamb, which is brought to him alive with great ceremony.

The new licentiate, or doctor, usually sets apart three days for riding about the streets to pay visits; he is preceded by youths carrying banners, on which are inscribed the marks of his new rank.

It is not, however, that the reign of science is extensive and profound among the Chinese; their whole knowledge is, for the most part, confined to their own language, with a smattering of the policy and history of their country. They are perfectly ignorant of the geography and history of other nations, and study no branch of physic. Their notions of the medical art are replete with error and ridiculous superstition. They consider the study of anatomy criminal, because they are afraid of defiling themselves by the dissection of bodies, and they have made so little proficiency in surgery, that if, as Mr. Barrow says, the puissant emperor of

China were to break his leg, he might think himself fortunate in meeting with some young European apprentice to set it for him.

It is not to be attributed to any unwillingness on the part of the Chinese to reward merit, that they have so few well-informed people amongst them. A priest of the sect of Tao-Tse made himself so dear to the emperor Kang-Hi by his talents in chemistry and magic, that he was proclaimed after his death, God and Lord of Heaven, and of the Sun, Moon, and Stars. I should, however, observe, that the word God, which I transcribe from the works of the missionaries, would be more correctly expressed by the Latin *Divus*, that is, Blessed.

CHINESE IMPLEMENTS OF WAR.



THE implements of war delineated in the annexed print are a cannon and culverines.

The firelock is of wrought iron, mounted on a wooden stock; the but-end is small and almost pointed; the touch-hole is covered with a copper plate which moves aside horizontally. The gun is not discharged by the stroke of a flint, but by a match, placed in a manner somewhat similar to that of our antique muskets. Every soldier has a number of these matches, in a leather bag, attached to his gun. In making use of the gun it is generally rested on two iron spikes. The cartouch-box is a kind of pocket of black cloth painted with oil paint, and which contains the balls.

The shields of the soldiers, who are armed with sabres, are made of satin, arrow- and sabre-proof, but not musket-proof; their diameter is two feet, and their weight eight pounds.

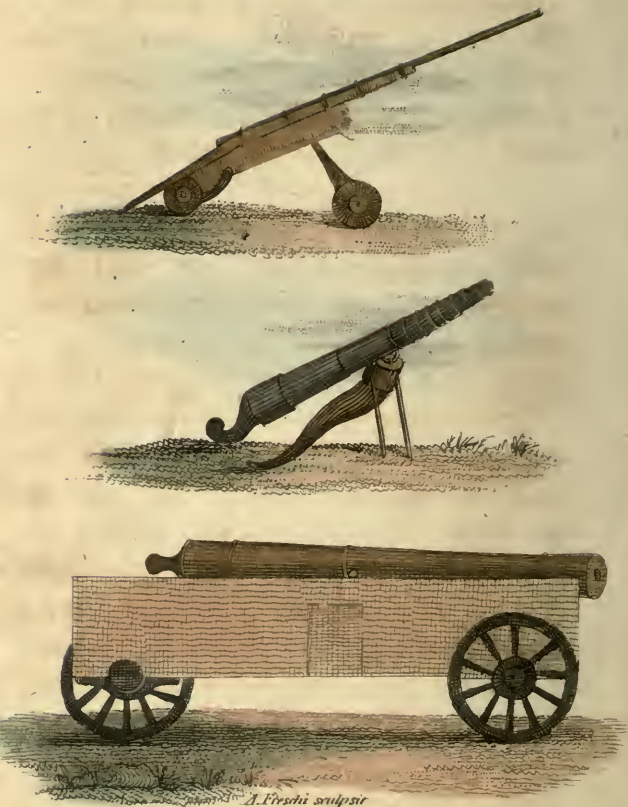
The quiver contains several rows of arrows; each of a different shape. The most singular are those, the points of which are armed with another arrow, and those whose points are slit, so as to receive a letter. This is the method adopted for corresponding with the enemy, in a besieged town, to evade the vigilance of the governor and his officers.

The strength of a bow is ascertained by the weight requisite to bend it. The weakest used by the army is eighty-four, and the strongest one hundred pounds weight. The bow, before it is pulled, forms a half-circle. It is drawn in the reverse way. - An opinion may here be formed of the corporal strength necessary in Chinese soldiers, and in the

archers of the ancients. The invention of modern fire-arms has produced the important result of rendering individual strength of little consequence in the day of battle. Every European soldier, sufficiently strong to bear the recoil of his firelock, is as capable of using it with effect, as the most robust; in our modern armies, it is rather soundness of constitution, and being inured to fatigue and privations, than muscular strength, which constitutes real soldiers.

The shaft of the arrow is of fir, sometimes a reed, and always well made. The point is sharp and in the form of a lozenge. The bow is made of hard elastic wood strengthened by buffalo horn. The combination of wood and horn increases its elasticity. The string, of the thickness of a small goose-quill, is made of twisted silk threads, with leather in the centre where the arrow comes.





CHINESE ARTILLERY.

Pub.^d 25 April 1812 by L. J. Stockdale, 41 Pall Mall

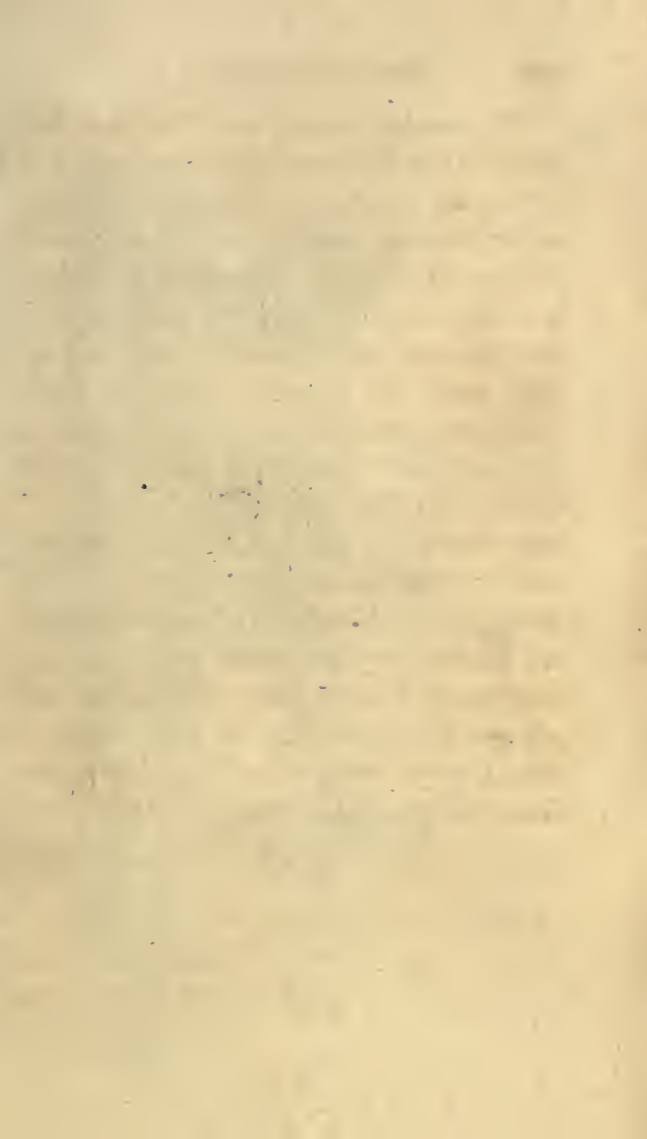
The Chinese soldiers sometimes shoot fish with an arrow very cleverly. The arrow is fastened to the bow with pack-thread, to prevent its being lost, and also to draw out the fish when struck.

In fortified places they make use of bows which can only be bent by machines, and which carry numerous arrows to an inconceivable distance.

The Chinese were taught the cannon-foundry by the missionaries. Their pieces of artillery are made nearly on the model of the bottom representation in the engraving. The second, after the style of the old Chinese cannon, is a culverine composed of three or four bands of wrought iron, combined with hoops of the same, and mounted on a frame.

The first is a large iron tube wider than a musket barrel, and which throws balls to a proportionate distance.

The Jesuits Schaal and Verbiest instructed the Chinese in the European art of casting artillery; at least, according to the practice which prevailed at the beginning of the last century, and which has been since brought to great perfection, though the Chinese do not seem to have made any progress in the art. On public entertainments, or when they wish to compliment persons of great consequence, they do not discharge artillery, but powder-boxes; they are a kind of petard or pistol, stuck perpendicularly into the ground. Mr. Barrow mentions, that the soldiers who fire these petards are so frightened at them, that they do not apply the match directly to them, but by means of a train, which communicates from one box to another.





A. Firschi sculptor

RIDING BARRY.

MANNER OF TRAVELLING IN A BARROW
WITH ONE WHEEL,

THIS method of travelling is more pleasant and less dangerous than that of a palanquin with two bearers : if one of the men were to fall, the wheel would still support this light carriage. It is not the Chinese, but the Tartar women who travel in this way.

At Pekin is a great number of carriages for hire, drawn by one horse ; but, as has been already mentioned, from not being hung on springs, their motion is very rough and unpleasant ; although, for the purpose of lessening this objection, the wheels are placed as far back as possible.

These hired carriages are convex at top, lined within and without with thick blue cloth, and furnished with black cushions; many of them are close in front, with a door at the side, but they are more frequently open.

The hired carriages are of two kinds, one with a door at the side, and one with a door at the front. The former is more common, and is used by the rich and the government. The latter is used by the poor, and is more common in the country than in the city.

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A. Freschi sculptor

MAHOMETAN WOMAN & SON.

Pub^d 1. May 1812. by J. J. Stockdale, at Pall Mall

A MAHOMETAN WOMAN WITH HER
SON, TO WHOM SHE IS SHEWING A
TOY.

MANY centuries have elapsed since the Mahometans introduced themselves into China; the missionaries assert that it was the year 599 after Jesus Christ; but M. de Guignes very successfully overthrows this assertion, as, at that period, Mahomet was not born. They were permitted to remain a long time perfectly unmolested, because they gave themselves little trouble to make proselytes, and only multiplied by the alliances which they contracted. Some of them who were well versed in mathematical knowledge, were sent for to court, and entrusted with the management of the calendar; they then became more ambitious, and not only collected and brought up in their own faith, the wretched infants

whom the barbarity of their indigent parents exposed in the streets and highways, but they kidnapped, and even purchased, some for a pecuniary consideration.

We are assured that, during a period of famine which desolated the province of Canton, they bought above ten thousand children; they married, and obtained for them a considerable territory, whereon small Mahometan towns were ere long established, with mosques and priests.

Late emperors have persecuted the Mahometans as untractable and rebellious subjects; and the greater part of their mosques have been either destroyed or abandoned. In 1783 and 1784, the emperor Kien-Long carried on a war, in which above one hundred thousand Mahometans perished.

Scarcely any individuals of this religion now remain, except in the tributary

countries, situate from the extremity of Chen-Sy to Yrguen and Ily in Tartary. The Chinese give them the appellation of Hoey; they are divided into three classes, which are distinguished by their turbans.

Those of the first class wear a red turban in the form of a sugar-loaf, whence they are termed Hong-Mao-Hoey-Tse, that is, red-cap Mussulmans.

Those of the second class, or white-cap Mussulmans, are therefore termed Pe-Mao-Hoey-Tse.

Those of the third class wear a turban, or rather a piece of cloth, which wraps round the head, and they are from that denominated Tchan-Teon-Hoey, or Mussulmans with their heads bound up.

Other foreigners, Jews, had found their way to China before the Mussul-

mans; it is said, during the Han dynasty, which commenced its reign 206 years before Christ. At first, they were a great number of families, but they have much decreased. These families marry solely with each other, neither intermixing with the Mahometans nor Chinese.

Duhalde asserts that the Jews have no synagogue, except in Cai-Foang, the capital of the province of Ho-Nan.

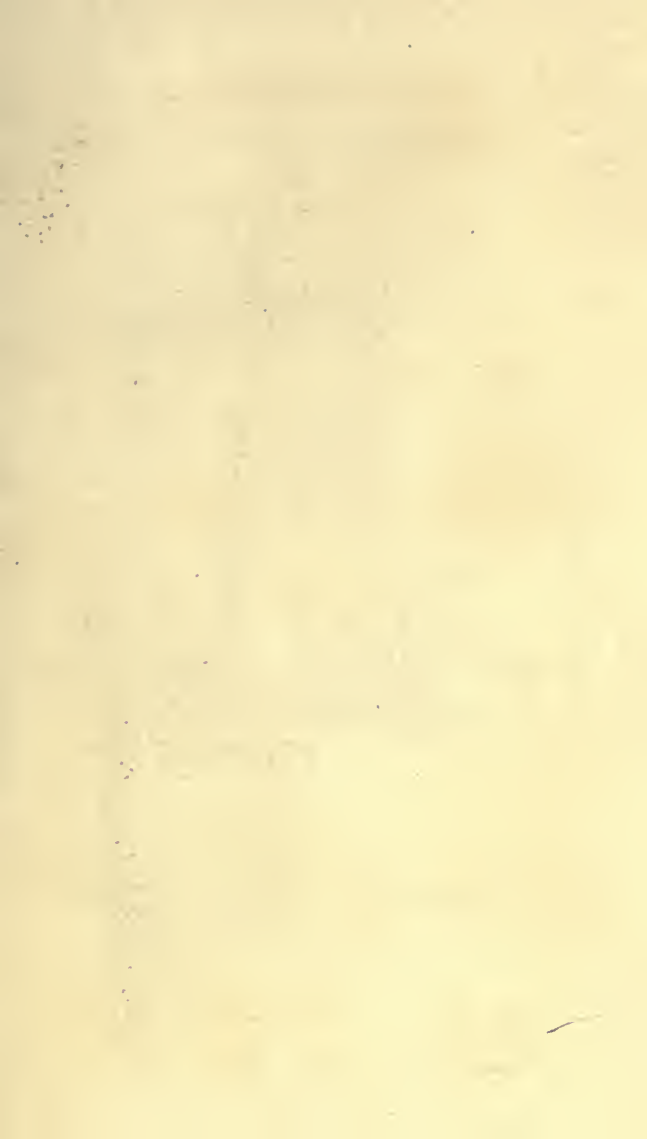
Mr. Barrow says that many of these Jews abjure the religion of Moses, and succeed to the highest stations; he adds also, that very few of them, the rabbis excepted, retain even a smattering of the Hebrew language, and that they have been so long among the Chinese, that their priests have great difficulty in supporting the synagogue. The English embassy, on its way to Hang-Chou-Fou, was desirous of obtaining some information respecting the Israelites, and parti-

cularly of procuring a copy of their code of laws, for the purpose of comparing it with the Bible; but they could not succeed, owing to the mistrust and incivility of the Chinese officers,

MIRROR-SELLER.

THE mirrors which are sold at Peking, are of highly polished copper; some of them are four feet in diameter. Canton contains the only glass-house in the empire: looking-glasses and glass mirrors have been manufactured there, quicksilvered in the European manner; but this undertaking has not proved successful. They prefer those of metal: it is difficult to account for this preference in the Chinese, as our looking-glasses are less liable to be tarnished, and the polish is, as one may say, unalterable. They are obliged to make use of metal in their telescopes, as their glass has a double refraction, which is productive of great irregularity in the representation of objects.

Glass is, in other respects, highly esteemed, and a great rarity in China.





A. Pischel sculptor

MIRROR SELLER.

The manufacturers of Canton do not understand how to manufacture it with the proper materials which should compose it; but they melt old pieces of glass, and give it the desired form. The scarcity of glass prevents its being used for windows: the windows are commonly composed either of their own transparent shells, or of paper.

The ancients constructed their glasses either with specular stones, that is, vitrified lava, which is met with on the sides of volcanos; or with a white polished metal—the latter was in most general use, and is still visible in old monuments. They have the round form of Chinese mirrors; but they likewise have a tail, by which they were held in the hand, or else fixed into some piece of furniture. It was long a matter of dispute amongst the antiquaries, what was the intent of these objects: some thought they were instruments used in sacrifices; but M. de Tersan clearly proved, some years since, that they were mirrors.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FEAST OF AGRICULTURE, AND OF THE FEAST OF LANTERNS.

“THE histories of China,” says Montesquieu, in his Spirit of Laws, Book 14. Chapter 8. “speak of the ceremony of opening the earth which the emperor performs every year. The object of this public act of solemnity is to excite the people to labour.”

Among the ancient Persians, on the eighth day of the month, named Chor-rem-Ruz, the kings relinquished their fast, to eat with the labourers. These institutions are admirable, were it only for the encouragement they give to agriculture.

Whether this august solemnity took its rise in policy or not, it has now become

so essential a custom, that the emperors could not dispense with it, at the present day, but at the risk of exciting discontent.

Chou-King mentions a Chinese monarch, who, having neglected to turn the glebe, and offer to Tien (Heaven), the produce of the harvest, incurred the just animadversion of the people; who regarded the public calamities which afflicted the empire, during his reign, as the effect of divine wrath.

Agriculture is held in such great veneration in China, that the annals of the people record, that the emperor Yao nominated, as his successor, a man from the humble class of ploughmen; to the exclusion of his own son, whose false and deceitful character he dreaded. The name of this prince was Chun; he was succeeded by Yu, who was of similar origin.

Another emperor of the name of Yen-Ti, who reigned 179 years before Christ, set his principal courtiers an example, and gave them a taste for agriculture, by himself laying out the grounds of his palace. The great Feast of Agriculture is supposed to have been instituted in commemoration of this action of Yen-Ti. It is celebrated annually in all the towns of China, on the first day of their spring-quarter, which corresponds with our month of February; being the day on which the sun enters the fifteenth degree of Aquarius.

At the time of this festival, the governor, or principal mandarin, quits his palace in a sedan-chair, preceded by lighted flambeaus, flags, and music; and his forehead decorated with a garland of flowers. He repairs, with his retinue, towards the eastern gate of the city, as though he was to precede the spring. At the same time are brought litters, covered with carpets or silk drapery, on which are depicted

certain strange figures or portraits of persons who have distinguished themselves in agriculture: the streets are carpeted; triumphal arches are erected at equal distances; and, in the evening, the exterior of all the houses is illuminated with lanterns.

One of the figures represents a cow of an enormous size, made of baked clay, and so heavy that forty men sometimes have great difficulty in carrying it. Behind this cow, the horns of which are gilt, is a young child which has one foot bare, and the other covered. It represents the genius of labour, or of industry; and constantly strikes the cow with a stick, as though to make her go forward. A company of labourers with their implements, men in masks, and buffoons in disguise, terminate the assemblage.

When it has arrived in front of the governor's palace, the cow is despoiled of all its ornaments, and, from its belly, are

drawn prodigious numbers of little cows, made of white clay, which are distributed to the whole troop; amongst whom was in like manner divided the wreck of the large cow. The governor, in a short speech, recommends agriculture as a point of the first importance to the prosperity of a state; then, taking hold of the plough, he himself turns some furrows.

This distribution of the parts of the cow calls to mind a somewhat similar ceremony which the ancient Egyptians had. Osiris was worshipped in the form of an ox, which Isis herself distributed to the priests. In England too, a few years back at least, it was customary on May-day for the milk-sellers of London to parade, with what was termed the milk-maids' garland; and sometimes a cow dressed in flowers.

When any officers from the viceroys come to court, the emperor never omits to question them on the state of the country

and the promising appearance of the harvests.

The Feast of Agriculture is celebrated, in the capital, by the emperor in person, who, with his own hands, ploughs several furrows. Instead of parading a clay cow, a live cow is sacrificed in the temple dedicated to the Earth.

The emperor selects twelve nobles to accompany him at this ceremony : namely, three princes, and nine presidents of the principal tribunals. These twelve mandarins, and the prince himself, are ordered to prepare themselves by three days of strict fast. On the eve of the ceremony the emperor selects several mandarins, and sends them into the hall of his ancestors, to prostrate themselves before the tablet on which his ancestors' names are inscribed. They are desired to inform them, as though they could understand it, that the great sacrifice would be offered the following day.

The tribunal of these ceremonies selects fifty labourers to assist at the feast; they are recommended either by their years, their good conduct, or their success in their vocation. Forty younger labourers are also chosen to attend the plough, harness the oxen, and prepare the grain which is to be sowed. The emperor sows five sorts of grain; rice, millet, wheat, beans, and a kind of millet which they call cao-leang.

The emperor opens the day fixed for the ceremony by making a sacrifice on a hill, at some distance from the capital, and near the field which is to be sown by his royal hands.

After he has offered the sacrifice, the emperor goes down to the plain, followed by his mandarins, carrying, in boxes, the grain which he is to sow. The whole court observes a profound silence; four professed ploughmen drive the oxen, the emperor holds the plough, and traces

several furrows in five different parts : he then takes the boxes in succession, and sows the grain which was in them, in distinct parts of the field. The following days, labourers finish ploughing the field.

The greatest care is taken of this piece of land, which the governor of the capital does not fail to visit regularly. He particularly examines whether there are no ears of corn, which, from their extraordinary magnitude, may be taken as an happy omen : should such be the case, and, for example, one stem produce thirteen ears, it is notified officially, throughout the whole empire, in the Court Gazette. The harvest is gathered in autumn, under the superintendence of the same governor. The produce is put into sacks of a yellow colour, and great care is taken of them : they are used in the sacrifices which the emperor offers in person, to Tien, or Chang-Ti ; he also sacrifices, on particular days, to the manes of his ancestors, the same as if they were still in being.

However easy it may be to conceive the motive which originated and continues the Feast of Agriculture, that of a no less famous institution, which is called the Feast of Lanterns, is not so readily accounted for. The Chinese themselves are not agreed as to its origin.

Some say, that the daughter of a mandarin, having fallen into the water, and been drowned, her father and the people, impressed with grief and regret for her estimable qualities, sought her, for a long time, unsuccessfully, with lanterns; and that this is the occurrence which they wish to keep in remembrance.

According to others, an emperor being weary of having his pleasures broken in upon, by the continued succession of day and night, resolved, by the advice of one of his women, to build a palace, absolutely impervious to the rays of the sun. The interior of it was lighted by innumerable lanterns, and he there vegetated in effeminacy and debauchery.

The people having revolted, the emperor was dethroned, and his palace destroyed. To perpetuate the memory of this event, the whole extent of the empire is annually illuminated at the same time.

Some writers, without attributing this feast to any extraordinary origin, simply relate, that the emperor Jouy-Tsong, of the dynasty of the Tangs, in the year of Christ 712, permitted a great number of lanterns to be lighted on the fifteenth night of the first moon. This feast, which afterwards lasted many days, was at last restricted to three.

During the Feast of Lanterns, all the streets, and public and private buildings in China, make a most extraordinary appearance.

WHILE considering with astonishment the splendour of foreign spectacles, we need not forget that feasts of far greater national importance, and almost inconceivable magnificence, once graced the British islands.—See an account of the feasts held in the temple of Tara, the grand seat of Ireland's triennial parliaments, in a note, page 148, on “The Emerald Isle,” a poem, which, whether for beautiful imagery, versatility of poetic talent, interesting incident, and historicial information, has no rival in the present day. It is from the elegant pen of Charles Phillips, Esq. who has just commenced his professional career at the Irish bar. *Ter quaterque beatus!*

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